REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application, as presently amended and in light of the following discussion, is respectfully requested.

After entry of the foregoing amendments, Claims 1 and 5 are pending in the present application. Claims 1and 5 are amended without introduction of new matter; and Claims 2-4 and 6- 14 are canceled without prejudice or disclaimer by the present amendment.

In the outstanding Office Action, the Abstract was objected to; Claims 5-11 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 101; and Claims 1-14 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,233,585 to Gupta et al. (hereinafter "Gupta").

Regarding the objection to the Abstract, the Abstract is amended in view of the Examiner's comments. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the objection to the Abstract be withdrawn.

Regarding the rejection of Claims 5-11 under 35 U.S.C. 101, those claims are amended in view of the Examiner's comments. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of Claims 5-11 under 35 U.S.C. 101 be withdrawn.

Turning now to the rejection of Claims 1-14 under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as anticipated by Gupta, that rejection is moot with respect to canceled Claim 2-4 and 6-14; and respectfully traversed with respect to Claims 1 and 5.

Though they are different in scope, each of independent Claims 1 and 5 recites features configured to issue, when an execution request for the service application is generated, a unique number corresponding to the execution request; and configured to identify a processing element use request from the service application for each unique number corresponding to the execution request for the service application issued by the number issuing unit, to obtain a number of the executed processing elements for each unique number corresponding to the execution request for the service application, to refer to the

processing element definition unit on the basis of the number of the executed processing

elements, to obtain the identification information of a processing element to be executed next,

and to execute the processing element corresponding to the obtained identification

information.[1]

In view of the above, a unique number is generated in response to an execution

request for the service application; and a recovery from an abnormality for the service

application is managed with respect to the particular execution request for the service

application. Thus, if a number of execution requests from different users are output to the

same service application and processing for the execution request causes an abnormality

(whereas processing for another execution request has not caused an abnormality), recovery

from the abnormality may be separately managed for the execution request which has caused

the abnormality. In other words, the execution request which has caused the abnormality can

be subjected to a recovery processing without affecting another execution request which has

not caused an abnormality.

The outstanding Office Action does not address the above-noted features of Claims 1,

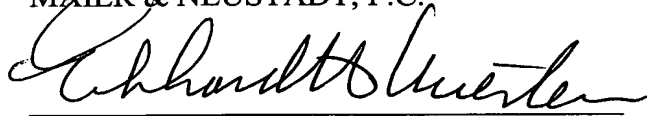5, and 13. Applicants submit that Gupta does not teach the above-noted features.

Accordingly, in view of the above, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection

of Claims 1-14 under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as anticipated by Gupta be withdrawn.

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[1] For support, see Applicant's Specification at page 21, line 18 – page 22, line 22.

Consequently, in light of the above discussion and in view of the present amendment,

the present application is believed to be in condition for allowance. An early and favorable

action to that effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,
MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.

Eckhard H. Kuesters
Attorney of Record
Registration No. 28,870

Customer Number

22850

Tel: (703) 413-3000
Fax: (703) 413 -2220
(OSMMN 06/04)
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